

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05378 280929Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----108287 280930Z /17
O 280910Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4787

S E C R E T SEOUL 5378

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: FORNMIN REQUESTS WRITTEN BUGGING DENIAL

BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN CALLED
AMBASSADOR IN JUNE 28 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH AIDE MEMOIRE ON
REPORTED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF CHONG WA DAE (BLUE HOUSE)
REQUESTING THAT "UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES GIVE THE KOREAN
GOVERNMENT WRITTEN CLARIFICATION ON ITS POSITION ON THE
ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE...AS REPORTED IN THE NEW
YORK TIMES ON JUNE 19, 1977," END SUMMARY.

1. AIDE MEMOIRE RECALLS THAT WHEN U.S. MASS MEDIA CARRIED
REPORTS IN DECEMBER 1976 ABOUT ALLEGED BUGGING, ROKG
REQUESTED US "TO PUBLICLY DISAVOW THE KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH
INCIDENTS SO AS TO CLARIFY THE MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL."
IT GOES ON TO STATE THAT ROKG BELIEVES OUR FAILURE TO
PUBLICLY DENY PRESS REPORTS EARLIER HAS INVITED,
"ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF FABRICATED NEWS REPORTS," ON
BUGGING. AFTER QUOTING FROM JUNE 19 TIMES ARTICLE, AIDE
MEMOIRE STATES, "THERE IS A STRONG IMPLICATION THAT THE
REPORT HAS BEEN BASED ON LEAKED OUT STORIES FROM SOME
OFFICIAL SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES." AIDE MEMOIRE
TAKES NOTE OF OUR ORAL DENIALS BUT NOTES "APPARENT
INCONSISTENCY IN THE UNITED STATES PRACTICE OF NOT MAKING
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PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITS ALLEGED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES
INVOLVING CHONG WA DAE, WHILE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
IS KNOWN OT HAVE MADE PUBLIC DENIALS ON OTHER ALLEGED
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST."
MEMOIRE INDICATES THAT CONTINUED USG SILENCE WOULD
UNNECESSARILY MILEAD THE GENERAL PUBLIC INTO BELIEVING
THE PRESS REPORT VALID DESPITE PRIVATE DENIALS,

THEN REQUESTS USG WRITTEN CLARIFICATION ON ITS POSITION
ON THE ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.

2. NOTING THAT BUGGING ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED REPEATEDLY
DURING RECENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS, FORNMIN
PAK SAID HE HAD FELT OBLIGED TO MAKE THIS REQUEST
FORMALLY. WHILE ALL KOREANS IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND
GOVERNMENT WISH TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE AND TO PROMOTE
BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK, SENTIMENT WITHIN
ROK AND ASSEMBLY WAS VERY STRONG.

3. IN RESPONSE, DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE, AMBASSADOR
REVIEWED PAST METHOD OF HANDLING BUGGING ISSUE, UNDERLINING
SIGNIFICANCE OF ORAL DENIALS WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN. AT THE
FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPECIFIC INSISTANCE, HE AGREED TO REPORT
ROK REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: FORNMIN REQUESTS WRITTEN BUGGING DENIAL BEGIN SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER PAK TONG-JIN CALLED AMBASSADOR IN JUNE 28 AND PRESENTED HIM WITH AIDE
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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